

Remarks

The Office Action dated July 11, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-10 and 17-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1-21 are subject to restriction requirement. Claims 11-16 have been cancelled. Claims 22-23 are newly added.

The restriction requirement of Claims 1-21 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that newly added Claims 22 and 23 depend from independent Claim 17 and as such are members of the Group III claims. Also, Claims 11-16 of Group II have been canceled.

Applicants elect for prosecution all the Claims in Group III (i.e., Claims 17-23).

Applicants submit that the claims of Group I and the claims of Group III are clearly related.

Applicants also submit that a thorough search and examination of either Group would be relevant to the examination of the other Group and would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicants submit that Group I and Group III are related as combination and subcombination and are not patentably distinct. Per MPEP §806.05(c), inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations. However, in the present application, Applicants submit that the combination Group III includes all the particulars of the subcombination Group I. Particularly, both Claim 1 (Group I) and Claim 17 (Group III) recite an iso bearing comprising "an inner surface, an outer surface, and a body extending therebetween, said inner surface comprising a pair of bosses and a pair of openings, said outer surface comprising at least one boss, said body comprising a pair of rotor protective flaps". Accordingly, Applicants submit that the requirement for election is improper, and Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Tersillo
Registration No. 42,180
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070